

(a) acquiring a plurality of sets of image information with an ultrasonic transducer array, said array moved substantially in an image plane between sets of image information;

(b) gating the acquisition of step (a) wherein first and second ones of said sets correspond to a portion of a cycle as a function of the gating;

(c) determining a component of motion in the image plane based on a comparison of image information from the first one of said sets with the second one of said sets;

(d) registering said first and second sets as a function of the component of motion; and

(e) forming an extended field of view image as a function of the registration of step (d).

Remarks

Claim 118 has been rewritten. The changes made are shown in the attached Appendix to this Response and Amendment. In the appendix, underlining indicates addition and brackets indicate deletion.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 118-120 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 116-117 and 121-125 were allowed.

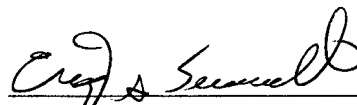
Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 118-120 and request reconsideration thereof. The Examiner alleged that "gating step (a)" is vague and indefinite as the precise meaning of the term "gating" may change when various forms of gating is being used. First, because a term may have more than one meaning does not make the term indefinite. For meanings appropriate in the context of the claim, the term is clear and definite and includes each of the appropriate meanings. Second, the context of the claim makes the particular meaning clear. Step (b) claims gating step (a) where step (a) is the step of acquiring a plurality of sets. Step (b) is gating acquisition of a plurality of sets of image information. Step (c) further indicates that first and second sets of the plurality of sets correspond to a portion of a cycle as a function of the gating of step (b) – as a function of the gating of acquisition of the sets of image information. The gating of claim 118, like the gating described in the specification at page 23, lines 17-26, clearly

indicates gating acquisition of sets of image information where two sets correspond to a portion of a cycle as a function of the gating.

To better emphasize the context of gating step (b), the claim has been amended above. This amendment is done for reasons unrelated to patentability.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorneys at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

118. (amended) A method for forming an extended field of view of a target, said method comprising the following steps:

(a) acquiring a plurality of sets of image information with an ultrasonic transducer array, said array moved substantially in an image plane between sets of image information;

(b) gating the acquisition of step (a) wherein first and second ones of said sets correspond to a portion of a cycle as a function of the gating;

(c) determining a component of motion in the image plane based on a comparison of image information from [a] the first one of said sets with [a] the second one of said sets[, the first and second ones of said sets corresponding to a portion of a cycle as a function of the gating of step (b)];

(d) registering said first and second sets as a function of the component of motion; and

(e) forming an extended field of view image as a function of the registration of step (d).